

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 DHA-02 SSO-00 INSE-00 VO-03 SCA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4683

INFO AMCONSUL UDORN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 11512

DEPT FOR D/HA/ORM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: EXPANDED PAROLE PROGRAM - CAT I

REF: (A) STATE 098072; (B) STATE 099137 (C) BANGKOK 11107

1. SINCE RECEIPT OF REFTEL (A) EMBASSY HAS PONDERED QUESTION OF HOW BEST TO SLICE CAT I TRANCHES. OUR CONCLUSION IS THAT DATE OF REGISTRATION NOT WORKABLE APPROACH AND THAT FAMILY SIZE ONLY USABLE OPTION. REGISTRATION DATE IS NOT RETRIEVABLE IN MANY CASES SINCE EARLY SCREENING DID NOT ALWAYS INCLUDE DATING OF REGISTRATION FORMS. SCREENING SINCE JANUARY HAS BEEN ON DATED FORMS BUT OFTEN THESE FORMS HAVE BEEN USED TO UPDATE A REFUGEE ALREADY REGISTERED.

2. GIVEN LACK OF WORKABLE ALTERNATIVE TO FAMILY SIZE CUT OFF, DISTANCES INVOLVED BETWEEN CAMPS AND RELATIVE PAUCITY OF CAT I-A CASES (30 PERCENT CAT I-A, 70 PERCENT CAT I-B), REQUEST PERMISSION TO CONTINUE INS INTERVIEWING OF BOTH CAT I-A AND B CASES, IF WE WILL BE FILLING TO 2500 CAT I NUMBERS UNDER EPP. IF DEPT. FINDS THIS ACCEPTABLE, EMBASSY COULD THEN REPORT WHICH CASES ARE CAT I-A AND WHICH CAT I-B SO THAT DEPT. CAN WITHHOLD THE CAT I-B CASES FROM VOLAGS UNTIL A FINAL
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DECISION IS MADE TO GO AHEAD. NATURALLY

IF POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT EPP CAT I WILL BE LIMITED
TO CAT I-A ONLY, INTERVIEWING OF CAT I-B NOT DESIRABLE.

3. A. UNDER CAT I-A WE PROPOSE TO PERMIT A CAT I-A
TO BRING IN HIS SINGLE CHILDREN OR SIBLINGS REGARDLESS
OF AGE. THUS A FATHER AND MOTHER GOING TO JOIN CHILD
IN US ARE I-A; THEIR ACCOMPANYING SINGLE CHILDREN ARE
ALSO APPROVED AS I-A IN SAME GROUP. A MARRIED CHILD,
HOWEVER, WOULD BE TREATED SEPARATELY AS A I-B CASE.
PROBLEM WITH THIS IS THAT IF I-B CASE LATER APPROVED,
IT PRESUMABLY WILL BE HANDLED AS A SEPARATE VOLAG
CASE, USING TWO SPONSORS WHEN GROUP MIGHT HAVE GONE
TO ONE SPONSOR.

B. ALTERNATIVELY, WE COULD EXTEND I-A STATUS TO ALL
THOSE WITH PA WHO MEET CAT I RELATIONSHIP STANDARD
REFTEL A, PARA 2, REGARDLESS OF AGE OR IF MARRIED.
REQUEST DEPT. REACTION TO PROPOSALS A AND B ABOVE.

4. THE REJECTION RATE IN INS INTERVIEWS (THOSE WHO DO NOT HAVE
REQUIRED RELATIVE "ANCHOR" IN U.S.) THUS FAR
HAS BEEN ABOUT 10 PERCENT. REPORTING EXACT REJECTION RATE
ADDS A BURDEN. UNLESS DEPT. NEEDS EXACT FIGURES,
HOPE THAT WE CAN REPORT PERCENTAGE OF CAT I REJECTION
CASES IF IT RISES OR FALLS SIGNIFICANTLY ABOVE OR
BELOW TEN PERCENT. FYI: LOW REJECTION RATE,
ACCORDING TO INS, DUE LARGELY TO INTENSIVE PRE-
SCREENING OF CAT I'S BY EMBASSY WHICH INCLUDED PHONE
CALL AND RED CROSS VERIFICATIONS IN MANY CASES, AS
WELL AS AFFIDAVITS FROM REFUGEE IN US IN MOST CASES.
THERE MAY BE HIGHER REJECTION RATE AMONG LAO AND
MEO WHERE VERIFICATIONS WERE BY AND LARGE NOT
ACCOMPLISHED.

5. REF (B) PARA 2 ASKS FOR A REPORT ON LATECOMERS.
THERE ARE A NUMBER OF PERSONS JUST ARRIVING IN
THAILAND FROM INDOCHINESE COUNTRIES BUT WE HAVE NOT
VIEWED THEM AS LATECOMERS. EMBASSY DEFINITION OF
LATECOMER IS SOMEONE WHO HAD THE CHANCE TO REGISTER
EARLIER AND HAS NOT. HOWEVER, MANY OF THESE REFUGEES
CLAIM AN EARLIER REGISTRATION AND THIS IS OFTEN
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IMPOSSIBLE TO VERIFY. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES SUGGEST
THAT REPORTING ON LATECOMERS WOULD NOT BE USEFUL.
IF DEPT. WANTS A REPORT, HOWEVER, PLEASE PROVIDE
SUGGESTED DEFINITION OF LATECOMER.

6. WITH REGARD TO THAI DAM, WE NOW BELIEVE IT
APPROPRIATE TO INTERVIEW CAT I-A CASELOAD AS FRENCH
PROGRAM CANNOT BE VIEWED AS DEFINITE FOR ALL THAI

DAM. ACCORDING TO FRENCH EMBASSY, THAI DAM WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED IN TOTO BUT ON TRANCHE-BY-TRANCHE BASIS. INITIAL TRANCHE THE FRENCH ARE ACCEPTING IS 200. IF WE INTERVIEW THAI DAM CAT I-A PRIOR MAY 5, WE WILL BE ABLE TO GIVE FRENCH A LIST OF THOSE ACCEPTED BY U.S. PERMITTING THEM TO CONCENTRATE ON OTHERS. AT TIME OF INS INTERVIEWS ALL THAI DAM WOULD BE BRIEFED THAT THOSE FALLING OUTSIDE I-A ARE NOT GOING TO BE ACCEPTED BY U.S. AND SHOULD ACCEPT FRENCH OFFER, IF AND WHEN MADE. FYI: UDORN ESTIMATES 350 THAI DAM CAT I-A REFUGEES (PA'S AND ACCOMPANYING FAMILY). IF WE WANT TO BE EVEN MORE RESTRICTIVE, UDORN BELIEVES THAT COMPELLING THAI DAM CAT I CASELOAD CAN BE NARROWED TO ONLY 25 (PA'S AND FAMILY). PLEASE ADVISE BY APRIL 28 IF WE CAN PROCEED TO INTERVIEW THAI DAM AND IF WE OUGHT TO INTERVIEW ALL CAT I-A CASES.
WHITEHOUSE

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